



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

08/02/2010

The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller:

I am pleased to inform you that WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT -- , has been selected to receive funding under the TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY GRANTS PROGRAM (215X). This grant will be in the amount of \$996,368.00 for the period 09/01/2010 through 08/31/2013. It is anticipated that the grant will be for a total of 5 year(s). Accompanying this letter you will find both an explanation of the purpose of the TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY GRANTS PROGRAM and a brief description of the activities that will be funded under the grant to WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT -- ,.

The contact at WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT -- , is:

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WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT -- ,
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(510) 231-1429

The grantee will be notified officially of their selection by the Department in the next few days. Please feel free to share this information with the grantee and others as you see fit.

I hope you find this information useful. If the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs can provide any further information in this regard or assistance in any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at (202) 401-1028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gabriella Gomez".

Gabriella Gomez
Assistant Secretary,
Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs

Reference Grant Award Number: #U215X100241
CALIFORNIA - 07

Purpose of the Program

The program is designed to raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge and understanding of and appreciation for traditional U.S. history. Grant awards will assist LEAs, in partnership with entities that have content expertise, to develop, document, evaluate, and disseminate innovative and cohesive models of professional development. By helping teachers to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of U.S. history as a separate subject matter within the core curriculum, these programs will improve instruction and raise student achievement.

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▪ Miriam Hutchins, SSU, Director of Professional Development	
▪ Dr. Michelle Jolly, SSU, Professor, Chairman History Department	
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▪ Nancy Case-Rico, SSU, Adjunct Faculty, Education	
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West Contra Costa Unified School District: TAH Proposal Abstract

The West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) TAH is a collaborative project between WCCUSD and its partners: Sonoma State University, Organization of American Historians (OAH), Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF), the Richmond Museum of History, the Rosie the Riveter Home Front National Historic Park, Out of the Box Consultants, and Temple University. The project meets the absolute priorities with these partnerships.

WCCUSD TAH will provide intensive professional development to enhance teachers' content knowledge, teaching skills and understanding of *traditional American History* thus improving student achievement. We are targeting 5th, 8th and 11th grade teachers from under-performing schools with a total of over 31,000 students. Two three-year cohorts will serve 34 teachers each and a Historian Lecture Series will include an additional 50 teachers. Over five years, 118 teachers will be served.

In Cohort 1, WCCUSD TAH will provide a standards aligned course of study of traditional American history with a focus on “Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and a Civil Society: From the Constitution to the Present” themes that span the chronological framework of the California History Standards for 8th/11th grades. The second cohort for 5th grade will focus on “Teaching Early American History: Cultures, Communities, and the Creation of the American Republic” themes that span the chronological framework of the State Standards for 5th grade. Teachers will learn to use content related teaching strategies including primary documents, artifacts, first hand accounts, illustrations, and site visits to translate freshly mastered content into classroom lessons. The primary goal of the project is to build local capacity by creating a core of teachers with enhanced knowledge of American history and sharpened pedagogical skills.

Teachers will attend a ten day summer institute with four days of follow-up and a three part Historians Lecture and Book Study that will be open to all teachers in the District. Support will be offered at monthly meetings, with opportunities provided for teachers to collaborate, share lesson plans, and discuss problems and successes using a Lesson Study approach. Teachers will (a) meet regularly throughout the grant period (and beyond); (b) collaborate online through message-boards and listserves; and (c) share questions, resources, student work and teaching strategies.

An independent external evaluation of student and teacher outcomes will be conducted by Dr. Ira Nelken of Ira Nelken and Associates, Inc.